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## Clinton: Israel can count on our support

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies WASHINGTON

US President Bill Clinton yesterday promised continued support for Israel as the peace process proceeds. In a commencement address at the US Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut that focused on national defense, Clinton said that "there will be problems" periodically, because "the enemies of peace will show their own desperation with bullets and bombs." "So I say this to the people of Israel: We've been with you every step of the way for the last three years. As Israel takes further risks for peace in the future, it can count on further manifestations of US support. "We must be with you every step of the way until there is a comprehensive, lasting peace in the Middle East. Now is not the time to turn back, and the US must do its part." Clinton has made it a mainstay of his Middle East policy to regularly, and publicly, reassure Israel that as it takes "risks" for peace, America would stand by it and help minimize those risks. Prime Minister Shimon Peres responded to Clinton's remarks last night by saying, "Toda'h, haver" Israel Radio reported. Meanwhile, talks on the Operation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee scheduled for yesterday afternoon at the State Department were canceled at the last minute. Israeli officials explained that the postponement was due to decisions still to be finalized in Middle East capitals on the monitoring committee's mandate, but would not say whether new difficulties had arisen. The officials yet unsure whether talks would resume today, or not until after the long Shavuot/US Memorial Day weekend. (Continued on Page 18)

## Shavuot starts tonight

THOUSANDS of people will stream to the Western Wall at dawn tomorrow to mark Shavuot, the one-day holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai and the harvest of the first fruits - which begins at sundown tonight. Among the customs marking Shavuot are all-night study sessions at synagogues and yeshivot around the country, the reading of the Book of Ruth, and the eating of dairy products.

## Warm wishes for a joyful Shavuot to all our readers.

The management and staff of The Jerusalem Post

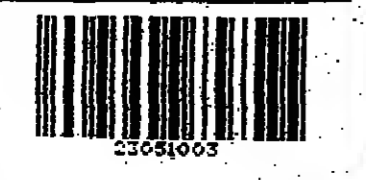
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SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:56	8:16
Tel Aviv	7:14	8:18
Hairi	7:28	8:19
Beersheba	7:11	8:10
Eilat	7:08	8:12



Dina Shimshon, 21, a border policewoman, who was seriously wounded in the No. 18 bus attack on March 25, cuts a cake to celebrate her release from the hospital yesterday. Looking on are her grandmother Yocheved (l), and her mother Ilana. The last of the victims of that attack to be released from the hospital, she will receive outpatient treatment at Hadassah Hospital, Mount Scopus. (Brian Handler)

## State comptroller, A-G continue war of words

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat continued to exchange angry words yesterday, stemming from a dispute over whether Ben-Yair should have indicted Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer. Meanwhile, a petition was filed in the High Court of Justice yesterday asking the court to order Ben-Yair to do so. Ben-Yair fired the opening round in yesterday's hostilities, faxing a letter to Ben-Porat and the press. "Your statements [that Ben-Eliezer should have been indicted] relate to the judgment of the prosecution," he wrote. "The prosecution's judgment is a matter for the courts to criticize. It is not a subject for the criticism of the state comptroller, the Knesset or any Knesset committee. To my sorrow, you were not careful to distinguish [between your private opinion as a jurist and your role as state comptroller], and by this error you led the State Control Committee to discuss matters outside its purview. Precisely because you are a jurist, I am sure that if you rethink your words, you will reach the conclusion that your behavior was out of line." Ben-Porat, in a response which was also faxed to the press, reiterated that her statements were made in a closed committee session, and were never intended to reach the media. She also reiterated that the final decision is indeed Ben-Yair's, and not hers. "But that does not obligate me to submit my judgment to yours," she continued. "I therefore do not retract a single one of my remarks." The petition asking that Ben-Eliezer be indicted was filed by Theodore Weinsal, professor emeritus of organization and man-

agement at Tel Aviv University. Ben-Eliezer had been investigated on two counts: his alleged allocation of ministry funds to Arab villages to persuade their heads to support Labor's candidate for head of the Local Authorities Union, and his allocation of ministry funds to six institutions headed by Labor activists - including one, Beit Hapalimah, whose board he sat on - in violation of ministry rules, and at the expense of the projects the ministry is supposed to fund. In the first case, the petition noted, Ben-Yair himself wrote that Ben-Eliezer's activities created the impression "of an undesirable intervention of party considerations into ministerial considerations," but decided Ben-Eliezer was innocent of criminal intent without the police even having questioned him. Furthermore, it noted, Ben-Yair said there was no proof of a connection between Ben-Eliezer's sudden allocation of additional funds to six Arab villages and an agreement signed the day before stating that the Arab mayors would support Labor's candidate, who would in turn work to increase funds for Arab villages. Ben-Eliezer, as head of Labor's campaign, helped negotiate this agreement, and the very proximity of the two events, when no such allocations had been planned before, was itself proof of a connection, the petition said. Regarding the institutional allocations, the petition again noted that Ben-Yair decided Ben-Eliezer had no criminal intent without even letting the police question the minister. Furthermore, it said, Ben-Yair's decision did not even mention one of the key points - that all six bodies were headed by Labor activists.

## Final election results may not be in until June 2

THE official election results might be announced only on Sunday, June 2, according to officials at the Central Elections Committee. Not only is the vote counting expected to take longer this year because direct elections for prime minister are being held in addition to the Knesset elections, but the count of special votes will also take more time because it now includes hospital patients. According to CEC director Tamar Edri, by law results need only be published within eight days. If all the votes arrive early Thursday, the morning after election day, the committee should finish the count by Friday evening, she said. If the ballots arrive late and counting cannot be completed before Shabbat, the uncounted and unopened ballots will be stored under heavy guard at the CEC's Knesset offices until Saturday night. The ballots of those who are eligible to vote

away from their allocated polling place - soldiers, prisoners, hospital patients, government officials abroad, and merchant seamen - will have to be checked to ensure that those who cast them have not voted twice. Altogether, 3,933,250 people are eligible to vote, some 500,000 more than in the 1992 elections. Edri said voters will not have their identity cards stamped as in the past, partly because some people have more than one ID card. Instead, the check will consist of being marked off the list at the allocated polling booth. Although citizens must present their identity cards to vote, they do not need to carry the voter's card (*tesudat bocher*). All voters will be given two envelopes, a

blue one for the Knesset and a yellow one for the prime minister. The ballot slip for the Knesset is white; for the prime minister, yellow. Both envelopes must be returned and put in the polling box, even if someone chooses to leave one empty and not vote for both Knesset and prime minister. Edri stressed that blank slips are considered invalid and not counted, despite the popular belief that they are a protest vote. "You might as well stay at home, if you intend putting in a blank slip," she said. She also noted that there are still 21 parties running. Although Ahmed Tibi and one other member of his Arab Movement for Renewal list resigned Tuesday, the party continues to exist unless all the candidates announce they are withdrawing from the Knesset race. In the meantime, the party's political broadcasts will also continue to run. (Continued on Page 18)

## First female combat unit completes basic training

THE first female combat unit since women fought side by side with men in the 1948 War of Independence graduated basic training yesterday, and included two Americans. "My dream was always to come here and join the army," said Yifat Liva, who arrived in Israel five months ago from Los Angeles. "Now they're finally giving us a chance, and they see that we've succeeded." Twenty-five women - among 430 recruits - celebrated the end of a three-month basic training course in the Border Police at the Beit Horon training camp, just north of Jerusalem. Women are still barred from combat roles in the IDF. "I learned a lot," said Liva. "I feel a lot stronger, both emotionally and physically." The women will perform all the same tasks as the men - except for patrolling Judea and Samaria. "At first it was hard for them," said Liva about her fellow male troops. "They said we couldn't make it, but now they're really supportive." "We're proud of our girls," said Eric Bar-Chen, the national police spokesman. "I wouldn't want to meet them in a dark alley." The women said they won't stop at merely qualifying for combat. "I'd like to be an officer - definitely," said a graduate from Washington D.C. "I'd like to go to the men's officer school." (AP)

## LIAT COLLINS

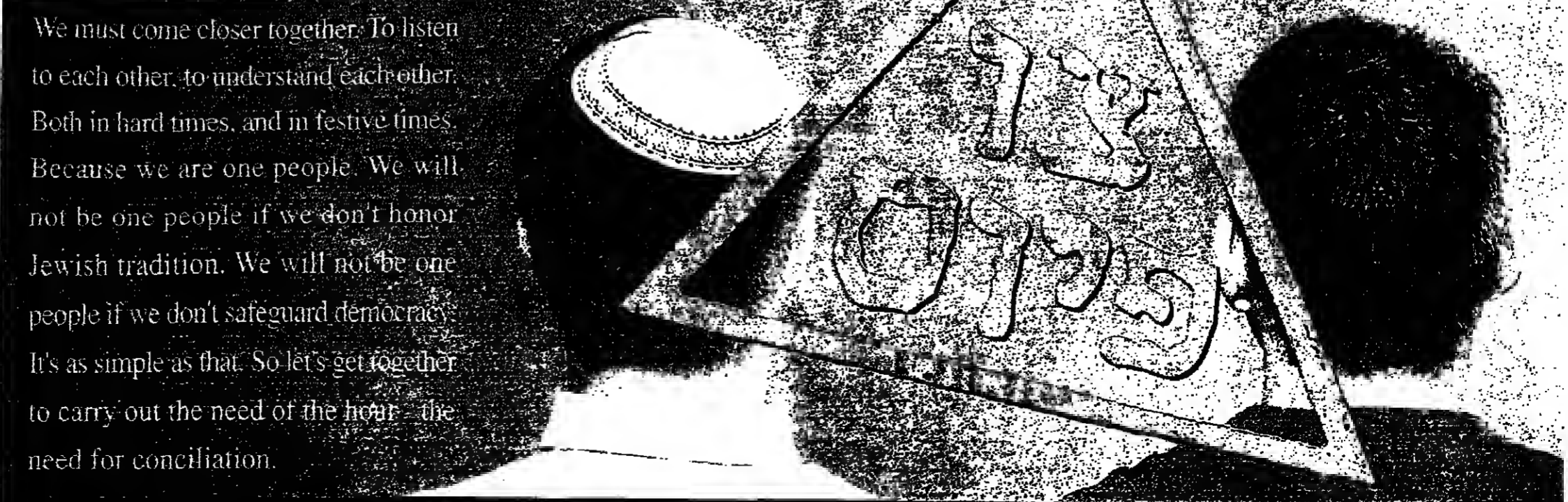
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# PLO official: Abbas named Arafat's deputy and successor

SENIOR Palestinian official Mahmoud Abbas would succeed Yasser Arafat as head of the PLO were the Palestinian president to die, an official said yesterday.

On Tuesday, the PLO's ruling executive committee elected Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, its secretary-general, formally confirming his position as deputy to the 67-year-old Arafat.

"The executive committee has elected Abu Mazen as its secretary-general, and officially, according to PLO regulations, he acts as second man [to Arafat]," PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said yesterday.

Abbas, 61, one of the founders of the PLO and of Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, was a main archi-

tect of the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord that led to self-rule in much of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If, God forbid, something were to happen to Arafat, [on his death] Abu Mazen takes over," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Another PLO official said that Arafat designated Abbas his deputy four months ago in a step never made public.

The official said Abbas was already acting as the PLO's second-ranking official in the absence of Farouk Kaddoumi, formally the organization's foreign minister, who opposes the self-rule deal and remains in exile in Tunis. (Reuters)

## Barak: We're satisfied with UN-Iraq deal

DAVID MAKOVSKY

FOREIGN Minister Ehud Barak last night expressed satisfaction with the recent UN-Iraq agreement that permits Baghdad to pump limited quantities of oil so it can use the revenue for humanitarian purposes.

In a talk to teachers in Haifa, Barak indicated that by dealing with immediate humanitarian problems, the agreement makes even more tenable the policy of the UN Security Council of maintaining the sanctions against the regime of Saddam Hussein imposed more than five years ago.

Iraq was one of the several topics Barak and Jordan's King Hussein discussed at the monarch's home outside of London on Tuesday. Other regional, peace process, and bilateral issues were also discussed.

At Hussein's request, there were no photos of the meeting, as he made it clear that he did not want to interfere in the Israeli elections. Officials in Jerusalem say this is the same reason Hussein refused Prime Minister Shimon Peres's request to visit Jordan last week.

## Israel, PA reach agreement on airport for Gaza

Israel and the PLO reached agreement on Wednesday on a Palestinian airport to be built near Rafah in the Gaza Strip, security sources said.

They said government coordinator Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabar and senior Palestinian Authority official Jamil al-Tarif signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment and operation of the airport in southern Gaza.

Israel will retain exclusive authority over security in the area of the airport, the sources said. Within a month the sides are to sign a protocol detailing airport operations and administration. (Reuters)



Palestinian journalists stage a strike in front of the Palestinian parliament in Gaza yesterday. They say they have been attacked by Palestinian authorities. (Reuters)

## Palestinian journalists protest intimidation

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN journalists went on strike for two hours in Gaza yesterday, staying away from a meeting of the legislative council, to protest intimidation, mistreatment and bureaucratic stonewalling of their attempts to gather news.

In a separate development, a leading human rights activist was remanded for 15 days for talking to a foreign newspaper about the humiliation Palestinians feel under their own government, the first time this has happened.

The strike, called the first joint action by journalists, questioned the motives of the PA, which claims to accept freedom of the press except when articles are in the pay of foreign states.

"Everyone knows that there are some journalists who are spokesmen for foreign governments," explained Abed Aloum, spokesman for West Bank Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub.

Under this ruling, newspapers have been closed down for days or weeks, and pro-Jordanian and pro-Fatah journalists have been detained and sometimes sentenced to long jail terms. Journalists returned to work

after Speaker Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) agreed to air their complaints before the council.

Meanwhile, human rights activist Dr. Iyad Sarraj was remanded Tuesday for 15 more days by a midnight session of the special security court after being arrested for "libeling and spreading false information about the president" and "Palestinian Authority," an offense which can carry a jail term of three years, said Sarraj's lawyer Raji Sourani.

Sourani said he was not present at the hearing. The remand indicates that the public prosecutor intends to press charges, which would be the first against a human rights activist.

Sarraj, a psychiatrist, is director of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights and founder of the Gaza Mental Health Center. He was arrested on Saturday after an interview with *The New York Times* in which he described the Oslo accords as "psychological surrender," and the human rights situation as "100 times worse" than under Israeli occupation because Palestinians are now facing abuse from their own government.

## US human rights group: Israel, Hizbullah targeted civilians

BOTH Israel and Hizbullah directly targeted civilians in last month's fighting in south Lebanon, showing "willful disregard for international humanitarian law," a human rights group said yesterday.

At least 165 people, most of them Lebanese civilians, were killed and 338 wounded in the fighting.

"Civilians are not just the victims of this conflict but have been rendered pawns in the hands of the belligerents," the US-based Human Rights Watch said in a report. "The conflict is often brought deliberately to civilian areas, and... combatants on both sides often employ weapons in a highly indiscriminate manner."

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi denied that Israel had targeted civilians or violated international law, and said Operation Grapes of Wrath was "self-defense" after Hizbullah repeatedly fired Katyushas into northern Israeli towns.

"We made all efforts not to harm civilians," he said.

IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Amos Gilad said the report presented an "unbalanced picture." "The report makes almost no mention of the fact that the majority of Hizbullah attacks were, first and foremost, directed against innocent Israeli civilians," he said. "Such attacks constitute a blatant violation of the laws of war."

A Hizbullah spokesman in Beirut said the group is studying the report and did not have an immediate comment.

Human Rights Watch, an independently funded organization that conducts human rights investigations worldwide, said the US, as the supplier of most of Israel's weaponry, "must share the responsibility for its misuse."

It also criticized Syria and Iran for helping supply Hizbullah with Katyushas. (AP)

## Group calls for winners not to trample losers

HERB KEINON

A GROUP of intellectuals from the left and right, religious and secular, issued a joint document yesterday calling on both sides of the political spectrum to behave charitably to the other if they win the elections.

"We are aware that in Israeli society there are different Zionist dreams, which in many ways contradict one another," the document released at a Jerusalem press conference read. "We should work so that even if one side is victorious over the other, it's achievements will not lead to the trampling of the other group. Therefore we should agree before hand on moderation, on a softening of style, and the giving up the full realization [of goals] upon victory."

The manifesto was signed by 27 people, ranging from Rabbi Shlomo Aviner from Bet El and Rabbi Yehoshua Zukerman from Yeshivat Metztav Harav on the right, and AB Yehoshua and Aryeh (Lova) Ellav on the left.

Avi Ravitzky, one of the signatories, told a Jerusalem press conference that those who signed the manifesto will be involved in a group that will try to keep lines of communication open between both sides of the political camp, and will - in times of crisis - try to cool tempers down.

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הקולות שלכם

# UTJ, Shas: We didn't endorse any PM candidate

HERB KEINON

BOTH United Torah Judaism and Shas went to great pains yesterday to convince supporters that reports their rabbis have come out in favor of one prime ministerial candidate or the other are greatly exaggerated.

"All media reports regarding the position of the Torah and hassidic leaders concerning elections for prime minister that have flooded the media over the last few days are baseless, and are meant only to cause confusion in the haredi community," United Torah Judaism said in a statement that was quoted on the front page of yesterday's *Yated Ne'eman*.

The press has, in the last few days, reported that Degel Hatorah's leading rabbis had decided to back Benjamin Netanyahu, and were just waiting for the right opportunity to declare their endorsement.

"The haredi community that is always completely faithful to the Torah greats, should not pay any attention to these baseless reports," the statement read.

While UTJ was denying that its rabbis have already endorsed Netanyahu, Shas was busy denying that Rabbi Ovadia Yosef was either going to endorse, or vote himself, for Shimon Peres.

Deri was quoted in today's edition of the Shas paper *Yom Le'Yom* as telling party activists that "Rabbi Ovadia Yosef said that he will not in any way indicate who to vote for for prime minister. He was not even willing to tell those who are the closest to him who to vote for, saying that 'I will not interfere.'"

Deri told the activists that it is possible that the Likud planted the stories about Yosef's inclination to Peres, apparently to sow fear among Shas voters and steer them away from the party, and into the Likud's ranks.

One rabbi who does not have any compunction about endorsing a candidate is renegade Yosef Azran, now head of the new Telem-Emunah party. This party yesterday came out with a clear endorsement of Netanyahu.

# 20,000 police to be on duty on Election Day

SOME 20,000 police will be dispatched nationwide on Election Day to safeguard polling stations and the public, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said yesterday.

Three days prior to Election Day, the territories will be completely sealed to thwart possible infiltration by terrorists, he added. Despite warnings of planned terror attacks, Hefetz assured people they could relax and go about their normal business.

So far, noted Hefetz, 120 election-related criminal probes have been launched. The most serious case, the shooting of Arthur Yurovsky by Likud activists, has been closed, and the file has been transferred to the District Attorney's Office, said Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Lask.



National Religious Party MKs Zevulun Hammer (standing) and Shaul Yahalom went to Bar-Ilan University yesterday to congratulate NRP candidate Nati Kochavi on his victory in the Student Union elections. (Yossi Zelig/PPA)

# Netanyahu raps reported Peres plan to free prisoners for Arab support

LIKUD prime ministerial candidate Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday strongly condemned reported plans by his rival Prime Minister Shimon Peres to free imprisoned terrorists in exchange for the Arab parties' endorsement of his candidacy.

"This would pose a very clear danger to the country's security and this is being done for no other reason than to win votes, as are other blatant moves. The country's security must not be jeopardized for electoral purposes," Netanyahu said during a campaign tour.

The Likud, meanwhile, petitioned the High Court of Justice to issue an immediate injunction against the Labor Party's plan to allocate NIS 10 million to Arab local councils in return for the Arab parties' public endorsement of Peres's candidacy.

The Likud charges that such an allocation of funds constitutes "blatant bribery of the voter." Netanyahu also pointed to press reports about "a new plan in Labor to call some towns outside Jerusalem the Palestinian capital so that Arafat could claim that this was Jerusalem too and that he had a capital in Jerusalem. This attempt to create a second Jerusalem to pacify Arafat is more than absurd. There will never be a second Jerusalem but only one indivisible capital of Israel."

Netanyahu also reacted to an acerbic attack which Peres launched on him yesterday because of the Likud contention that there are secret dealings with Arafat over Jerusalem. Netanyahu noted the video recording the Likud produced showing Arafat speaking of precisely such a deal before a throng of 50,000 in Nabulus. "If this is all so unfounded, why does Peres not call Arafat's lie? Why does Peres not call Arafat a liar?" Netanyahu asked. "Peres is resorting to personal slights and

insults instead of telling the nation the truth and answering the very real questions and issues before us."

In Or Akiva, Peres said that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal, undivided capital and called the Likud's campaigning on the issue scandalous. He said that the Likud, for

the sake of a few votes, was creating the impression that half the nation was willing to divide the capital.

Netanyahu yesterday also picked up a couple of important rabbinical blessings.

# Likud, Labor agree on debate format

SARAH HONIG

THREE days before the ballots are cast, prime ministerial candidates Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu will face off for a half-hour debate - of sorts. The terms were finally agreed upon late Tuesday night by the two sides after days of haggling.

The moderator will be Dan Margalit of Channel 1's *Popolitika* fame. He announced yesterday that he alone will formulate the questions and that no one will know what they are until the taping of the interview itself at 11 a.m. on Sunday. The general public will get to see the end result at 8:30 that evening.

The Likud won the coin toss that enabled it to choose between having the event at its Neve Ilan studio but letting Peres have the last word, or having it at Labor's Tel Aviv studio and letting Netanyahu have the last word.

The Likud strategists opted for the last word for Netanyahu. Peres will get to speak first.

Much of the hard bargaining between the sides revolved around the Likud's demand that the two

candidates do more than just address the speaker and launch into their own prepared monologues. But according to the final agreement, this is roughly how it will be. Margalit will ask the questions and each contestant will get 90 seconds to reply. The camera will focus only on the speaker and moderator but not on the listening rival.

The only exception will come at the end, when according to the Likud's demand the candidates will each get to pose a single question to each other.

Before the questioning starts, each candidate will get allotted a minute and a half for his personal message. Next will follow two different questions for each candidate which Margalit will prepare. The reply to each of these questions will last 90 seconds. Then will come a follow-up question in which 60 seconds will be allowed for the answer.

Margalit will then put two more questions to each candidate, but this time there will be no follow-up



question to the 90-second replies. After the candidates' questions to each other, during which 90 seconds will be allocated for a response, each will be given 90 seconds for a final personal message.

In the Likud it is well known that Margalit openly supports Peres, as is very clear from the numerous opinion pieces he publishes in *Ha'aretz*. However, it is hoped that precisely because his own political inclinations are so well-known, Margalit will have to make an effort to be fair.

Both candidates are expected to be intensively coached throughout the weekend. This is seen as the culmination of a very sluggish campaign but, as Margalit said yesterday, "it is hard to see how such a debate can live anything up to this very late stage in the game."

SARAH HONIG

Rabbi Haim Kanievsky - one of those closest to Degel Hatorah mentor Rabbi Eliezer Schach - received the Likud leader yesterday, spoke to him for half an hour and wished him luck and success. Around

Kanievsky this is seen as a virtual endorsement, especially in view of the fact that Netanyahu has already received the outright endorsement of the Sephardi Telem Emunah, one of whose patrons Kanievsky is.

Netanyahu was also received by Rabbi Meir Mazuz, one of the

members of Shas's Council of Torah Sages who is particularly influential in the Tunisian community. Rabbi Mazuz went so far as to issue a directive to his followers which not only endorses Netanyahu but forbids them from voting for Peres or abstaining.

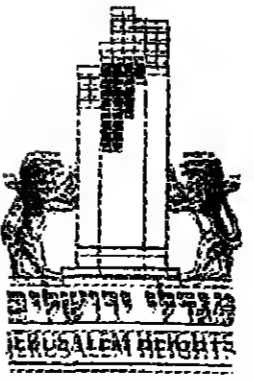
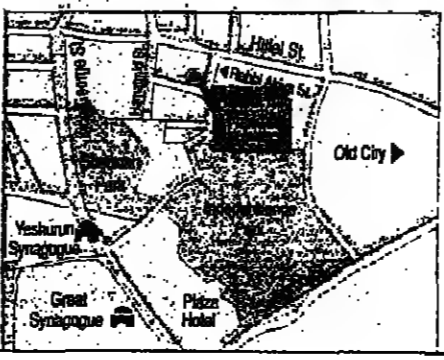


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## Russia says dozens of men lost in Chechen battle

ACHKHAI-MARTAN, Russia (Reuters) - Russian forces suffered dozens of casualties yesterday fighting Chechen rebels holed up in a Soviet-era missile silo designed to withstand nuclear attack.

Flashes of light and puffs of smoke rose from the rebel stronghold of Bamut and from the foothills above it, visible from the town of Achkhai-Martan 15 km away.

At least seven helicopter gunships and artillery battered the village in what Russian television says is the 10th attempt to take Bamut since President Boris Yeltsin sent forces to halt the region's independence bid in December 1994.

Interfax quoted a military source as saying 40 soldiers were killed near Bamut, 40 km southwest of the capital Grozny, in the biggest attack in weeks in the mainly Moslem region of Russia's southern rim.

Russian planes bombed rebel-held hills overlooking Bamut during the night, smashing windows in Achkhai-Martan.

The military says up to 1,000 guerrillas seeking independence

from Moscow are entrenched there, and attempts to flush them out of a labyrinth of concrete corridors which used to house medium-range missiles have proved futile.

Interfax earlier quoted a military spokesman as saying 22 Russian soldiers had been killed and 48 wounded in hand-to-hand fighting after rebels broke through their lines under cover of dark. He said rebels also lost an unknown number of casualties.

Itar-Tass news agency later quoted the Defense Ministry in Moscow as saying about 120 rebels were killed, and put the Russian death toll at 16. Both sides have tended to exaggerate casualties in their favor in the past.

It was not clear how the fighting would affect Yeltsin's plans to visit Chechnya in a bid to restart peace talks and restore his standing with liberals angered by the 17-month-old campaign in which more than 30,000 people have been killed.

Rebel leader Zelimkhan Yanbarbiyev, quoted by Interfax, urged Russia to "take realistic steps to stop military actions and withdraw troops from Chechnya."



Relatives wait to identify their kin in the Bugando hospital in Mwanza, Tanzania. Hundreds were feared dead as rescue teams searched for survivors from the ferry that capsized. (Reuters)

## Little hope of survivors after crowded ferry sinks in Lake Victoria

AN overcrowded ferry that capsized on Lake Victoria was listing badly when it set sail, crammed with passengers who defied warnings to stay ashore, survivors said yesterday.

Late yesterday, the government said 549 of the 663 people aboard the ferry were presumed drowned when the ship went down Tuesday. It said there were 114 known survivors.

Rescue boats floated idly on the lake yesterday, circling an oil slick that formed from the ship's fuel. Searchers who pulled 29 bodies from the water offered little hope of finding more survivors.

The state-owned MV Buboka sank 12 kilometers from port at Mwanza in Africa's largest lake. President Benjamin Mkapa said the ship was meant to carry no more than 441 people.

KARIN DAVIES  
MWANZA, Tanzania

The boat was so crowded at the dock in Bukoba that police stopped any more passengers from boarding, Tanzanian newspapers quoted survivors as saying. But some passengers traveled by automobile to meet the ferry at the next port, Kemono, and boarded there, survivors said.

When the ferry left Kemono it was listing badly, rider Kamali Magolenga said.

"Then before it capsized, passengers moved to the right, and then to the left... and we went down," Magolenga told Nipashe, a privately owned Swahili-language newspaper.

The ferry sank within sight of shore, amid floating islands of water hyacinths.

The only sign of the accident

today was the oily sheen from leaking fuel.

Early news reports said the ferry hit a rock, but the state Tanzania Railways Corp., which owned and operated the ship, said it did not. Survivors said many victims were trapped below deck when the ferry capsized.

Mkapa, Tanzania's president, declared three days of mourning, and flew to Mwanza. At a memorial service for the dead, he told thousands assembled at a soccer stadium: "I've come to sympathize with those who've lost friends and family, to bring condolences from all of Tanzania."

He said he ordered divers to Mwanza to cut open the hull of the ship and free the bodies trapped inside.

The flag at the stadium was flown at half-staff, as were flags across the country. (AP)

## Nazi confronted in court by victims' relatives

ROME (Reuters) - Italians still grieving for loved ones killed more than 50 years ago in a German SS massacre gave emotional testimonies yesterday at the trial of a former Nazi accused of helping organize the atrocity.

Giulia Spizzichino collapsed in tears after testifying how seven men in her family were rounded up and shot at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome on March 24, 1944.

They were among 335 Italian men and boys killed at the caves in retaliation for a partisan bomb attack in Rome the day before which killed 33 soldiers of German occupying forces.

Spizzichino and other victims' relatives testified at the trial in military court in Rome of former SS captain Erich Priebke, 82, who prosecutors contend was one of the atrocity's chief organizers.

Anna Maria Proserpi, who was five when her father was killed, showed the court a photocopy of a rent receipt found on his body at the caves on which he had scribbled "Antivederci" (goodbye) to his wife and children.

"The body of my father was found intact, the bullet probably just grazed his neck and he died later, who knows how much later," Proserpi said.

Rosina Stame confronted Priebke from the witness stand after testifying how her father, a noted opera singer and partisan commander, was killed at the caves.

"You killed these people, but you will never kill the spirit they died for," she said.

Military prosecutor Antonio Intelsano had planned to close his case against Priebke with testimony from Dietrich Beelitz, 89, who had coordinated Nazi activities in Rome with Berlin headquarters.

But Intelsano told the court that Beelitz would not be appearing.

"Interpol informed me just yesterday that he cannot make the journey for health reasons," the prosecutor said, without giving details of the illness.

Beelitz, who lives in Stuttgart, Germany, was to have testified to the crucial question of how big a role Priebke played in the massacre.

## Britain goes on diplomatic offensive over beef ban

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain went on the offensive against Europe yesterday, setting up a crisis committee under Prime Minister John Major to coordinate its new strategy of paralyzing European business until a beef export ban is lifted.

Ambassadors were told to explain immediately to foreign governments why Major had lost patience over Europe's failure to lift the ban and to prepare for a diplomatic assault on European capitals by ministers in coming weeks, officials said.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind gave a warning that Britain was determined to carry out its threat to paralyze European Union business unless it gets agreement on ending the ban soon.

"We're not posturing here... We're sending a very clear and unmistakable political signal," Rifkind told reporters.

"The purpose of the measures announced yesterday was not to provoke a crisis for its own sake... When they [European nations] get used to the fact we will not be pushed around then that concentrates the mind wonderfully."

## Ciller slams Turk premier, delights Islamists

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish coalition partner Tansu Ciller, cornered by a barrage of corruption charges, lashed out at Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz yesterday with a call for him to step down after two months as head of their shaky government.

"Yilmaz should hand over his mandate immediately," Ciller told a meeting of her True Path Party (DYP). She urged the creation of a broad-based government to replace the minority conservative alliance and accused Yilmaz of gross incompetence.

Two DYP cabinet members with minor portfolios said they had given their resignations to Ciller, which the ex-premier said they had done to pressure Yilmaz.

"I know about the resignations. They resigned to force... Yilmaz to resign," she was quoted by the state-run Anatolian news agency as saying. They will stay as ministers for now.

Ciller's outburst was her strongest in frequent recent rows between the pair and confirmed the success so far of Islamist opposition attempts to split the pro-market conservatives.

Istanbul shares dived on Ciller's comments to end the day down 4.44 percent. The Turkish lira dropped to 78,000 from 77,550 against the dollar.

The Islamist Welfare Party has also urged Yilmaz to resign after a constitutional court ruling last week cast doubts on the government's legal status.

## Bomb on bus kills at least 14 in India

JAIPUR, India (Reuters) - The second powerful bomb blast in India in as many days killed at least 14 people, and wounded 33 yesterday on a bus in the northwestern state of Rajasthan, an official in the chief minister's office said.

The official denied domestic news agency reports which said at least 20 people were killed by the explosion near the town of Mahua, about 150 km from the state capital Jaipur.

United News of India (UNI) said the explosion tore the roof off the bus.

The blast occurred on the eve of

a general election in the rebellious Jammu and Kashmir state, the first in seven years.

Police said no one had yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Two Kashmiri groups have said they planted a car bomb on Tuesday night in a crowded New Delhi market, killing 13 people and wounding 38.

UNI said the bus was traveling from Agra, where the Taj Mahal is located, to the desert tourist town of Bikaner near the Pakistani border. It was not known if foreigners were on board.

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Funeral in London

The unveiling of the monument to our beloved mother

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The Family

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**MAX (Meir) DECKTOR** ז"ל

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The funeral will take place at Shikun Givat Zion (Shikun Dromi) Cemetery today, Thursday, May 23, Erev Shavuot, at 11 a.m.

**Shulamit Decktor Avron Decktor Yonit Zilberman Myra Dromi and their families.**

The family will be gathering in the home of the departed at 50 Hahavatzlet Street, Afridar, Ashkelon, from Motza'el Shabbat, May 25, until Tuesday evening, May 28.

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# NEWS IN FOCUS

May 23, 1996

## Campaign grapples with the Russian soul

Many new immigrants from the former Soviet Union remain uncertain about their choice for prime minister, reports Abraham Rabinovich

**N**ATAN Sharansky was not giving any secrets away. On a soft spring night in Herzliya this week, he stood on a park podium asking a small crowd of Russian-speaking immigrants to vote for his Yisrael Ba'aliya Party. However, in response to a question, he refused to say for whom he would vote for prime minister.

Russian immigrants, he explained, were evenly divided between Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu, and if he publicly pronounced for one or the other, perhaps 40 percent of his own supporters would immediately decamp.

The Russian soul, bless it, is torn with conflict, even when it comes to an Israeli election. Polls show that as many as 30% of Russian immigrants are "floaters," uncertain whether to choose the Likud or Labor leader. The direction of the peace process - perhaps the future of the Middle East - may be decided by how they resolve their dilemma by next Wednesday.

In all, Russian immigrants constitute 14% of the electorate in a race where the contenders are separated by 6% or less.

"Many Russian immigrants believe the country is too small to be divided and therefore don't accept the formula of land for peace," says Vladimir Babak, an academic researcher who arrived three years ago and ranks among the floaters. "I'm ready to give up land for peace, but I think the government is going too fast with the peace process. A process is something that should take a long time."

On the other hand, Netanyahu is not yet ready to be prime minister. He doesn't have Peres's experience.

Peres, on the other hand, was a man of experience. "He's a socialist, and there has to be help for the weak and the elderly. He's also for privatization, which the economy needs. I think Peres will bring peace. Without peace there's no future."

All the pro-Netanyahu Russian immigrants spoken to at the Herzliya rally favored peace and accepted the need for territorial concessions. But they expressed uneasiness about the swift pace of the peace process.

"Politics is like chess," said an ex-Kiev engineer who identified himself only as Alexander. "You have to think a few steps ahead. Everyone wants peace, but we have to think about what we are giving away and what can happen. Peres is a very serious person, but Netanyahu has the will and the strength. And he's young."

Keene Hecht, who arrived from Moldova a year ago, said that Peres advocated "peace at any price," which was an unacceptable formula.



Natan Sharansky campaigns among Ethiopian immigrants. While he is busy collecting potential votes for his own party, he won't say who will get his own vote for prime minister.

Furthermore, said Hecht, when Peres addressed immigrants in Jerusalem he said that Israel had the best educational system in the world and that the country had a shortage of engineers. "A prime minister who believes these things, well, it's a pity."

Leonid Opendik, who immigrated five years ago, said he saw no real difference between Labor and Likud. However, the dependence of Labor on Meretz - "Meretz always thinks about the Arabs' needs, not about immigrants' problems" - will make him vote for Netanyahu.

Peres supporters among Russian immigrants interviewed in Jerusalem contrasted his experience with Netanyahu's. "If I were sick," said Galina Groisman, "I would choose an experienced doctor to treat me and not an intern, even if he photographed well. Peres should be permitted to complete the process he has started."

Ludmila Uritsky was reminded by the Israeli right of the dominant world view in the Soviet Union. "It's difficult to live in a closed society which is xenophobic and aggressive, which has the oedipal for seeing an external enemy. I see Peres as leader of a democratic movement that believes in rights for everybody, not just the Jews."

A lack of credibility was cited by Julia Prezoument as a reason for not choosing Netanyahu. "In the past two years, his position on peace has changed," she said, citing his acceptance of the Oslo agreements and his reversal of position regarding a possible meeting with Yasser Arafat.

Alec Epstein, a sociology student at the Hebrew University, noted that the Likud campaign directed at Russian immigrants was the reverse of the campaign it directed at veteran Israelis. Where Netanyahu was presented as a peace candidate in Hebrew, it was his headline advocacy of a strong

Israel that was heard in the Russian-language campaign headed by Rafael Eitan.

Although she has been in the country 17 years and is married to an Israeli of Persian extraction, Galina Nabati of Ness Ziona still identifies enough with the Russian-speaking community to have joined Sharansky's campaign. "We are the victims of stereotyping," said Nabati, a music teacher. "Whoever there's a murder or something else unpleasant involving a Russian immigrant, his origin is always pointed out in the newspapers. We

are portrayed as criminals and prostitutes. They don't do this with other groups; they don't point out that Rahim's murderer was a Yemenite. After all my years in the country I feel oow that I can shout."

As for prime minister, she chooses Peres. "I believe we have to have a dialogue, not flex our muscles."

On the stump in Herzliya, Sharansky was an engaging campaigner. He did not declaim his speech but chatted amiably with his audience, looking probably as he had in Moscow parlor meet-

ings during his days as a dissident. He had put on considerable weight since crossing a snow-covered bridge in Berlin 10 years ago in an East-West prisoner exchange, but his face was little changed.

In his talk, he noted that this wave of immigrants is the first in the country's history to attempt to assume an immediate role in the decision-making process and not to leave their fate to the Establishment.

His seemingly quixotic avoidance of high politics in a critical, politically charged election cam-

paign spares his supporters the dilemma confronting them in the prime minister's race and keeps Sharansky himself, at least for now, above the battle, where he has chosen to be since his arrival from the Soviet gulag.

With his appointment as a minister likely, regardless of whether Peres or Netanyahu wins, this is a posture that will not long remain tenable.

He has crossed an icy bridge once more, this time into politics. In the end, floaters too understand that politics means choosing sides.

He has crossed an icy bridge once more, this time into politics. In the end, floaters too understand that politics means choosing sides.

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# The country's first post-ideological election

A de facto consensus is emerging that Israel has other options besides either retaining all of the territories or returning to the '67 borders, David Makovsky writes

It seems light years ago. With Israel's only mini-debate between Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu taking place on Sunday, one cannot help but recall the defining moment of the last mini-debate in 1992. When Yitzhak Shamir was asked whether he favored Israel getting out of Gaza, he replied no, because it is "Eretz Yisrael" (the land of Israel).

With the Palestinian Authority now in control of almost all the cities in Judea and Samaria, the notion of the Complete Land of Israel Movement, or Greater Israel, is not a campaign issue for the first election since 1967. While Judea and Samaria and dealing with the Arabs remain the defining issues of Israeli politics, there has been a profound change in the last few years.

Opponents to Palestinian control in the territories speak in terms of how they view safety, not in terms of an over-arching historic vision. Israel seems to be facing its first post-ideological election.

So long as ideology was a factor for some, there was no common language for debate. One side was talking apples, the other oranges. There is no doubt that there are key issues in this election, ranging from the possibility of Palestinian statehood or the Golan Heights. But, when it comes to dealing with the Palestinian issue, the neck-and-neck race between the parties masks the fact that the two sides are no longer speaking as if they are universes apart.

Reality has imposed itself and differences between left and right have narrowed. Israel has never been a consensus-driven society, but the reality of Oslo has created a virtual de-facto consensus.

This absence of ideology on the right is also true on the left. The idea of a "New Middle East," which has become so identified with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, is one which he has quietly become more ambiguous about, even before the upcoming elections. Faced with Arab opposition abroad and skepticism at home, Peres now has trimmed his sails. He subtly speaks of an unspecified "transition period" to a new era, which at some point down the road will yield a regional economic community.

In the meantime, he makes it clear that Israel will continue to develop a modicum of economic ties with some states in the region on the basis of mutual self-interest, but amid the recognition that Israel's major peace dividend over the last four years has come from greater investment from the US and Europe and greater exports to the Far East, not from the region.

Yet inroads Israel has made in the region over the last few years due to the peace process have led to the dissipation of another axiom which used to be heard often in ideological circles on the right in the past, namely, "the whole world is against us."

That this is no longer true was evident when Israelis can visit Jordan, the Gulf, and north Africa while Arabs and other world leaders attended Yitzhak Rabin's funeral. Further evidence is the establishment of diplomat-

ic links with up to 160 countries since the end of the Cold War.

The absence of ideology on both sides might explain why this election campaign has become by many accounts one of the sleepiest political campaigns in many years, as well as the absence of the usual major rallies and heated debates at many street corners. Oslo charted a course and, whatever people's own political views, according to polls, most people believe the PA is here to stay and Oslo will not be overturned.

The Arab-Israeli stalemate on the territories, which has bedeviled Israel since 1967, has been broken. So long as there was no Arab interlocutor, talk of maintaining biblical patrimony over Judea and Samaria played a key role as Israel was essentially arguing with itself. It was a frozen debate.

It was also a more polarized debate than today. Its terms were framed in either the following choices: either you keep it all or you go back to the 1967 lines. Yet after the passing of more than two-and-a-half years since the famous handshake on the White House lawn, it seems that the pre-1993 ossified debate was one of false choices.

Visiting settlements and talking to settlers, one senses an overwhelming sentiment that no matter who wins the current election, neither party will expel the PA and neither will uproot all the settlers but rather that settlement "blobs" comprising most settlers will prevail as a result of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. This is a view expressed no less by Likud officials than by Labor politicians, including Minister Yossi Beilin, who believes he has a plan to annex 100,000 settlers into Israel.

In short, regardless of Israeli rights to biblical patrimony over the entire land, the debate has moved from one of ideology to the more mundane concerns such as demographic studies of concentrations of Palestinian population centers and settlement blocs. Settlers usually put their own case to the public in terms of safety and not as being the vanguard of the Zionist dream.

The territories have become transformed from an ideological issue to a security question.

With ideology no longer the salient factor it was in the past, the remaining questions seem to be more technical, such as what percentage of Judea and Samaria will remain in Israeli hands and what can be given to the Palestinians. While this is an undeniably important question, it is hard to get Israelis to become passionate about percentage points.

Hebrew University political theorist Yaron Ezrahi said, "1992 turned out to be an election about direction in dealing with the Palestinians, with this election being more about pace and degrees of change."

NETANYAHU has positioned himself in this campaign as someone who recognizes the new facts on the ground and has gone beyond ideology. He repeatedly insists that he would not roll back those areas held by the PA, would consider meeting PA Chairman



This is the first election since 1967 in which the Greater Israel notion is not a campaign issue.

Yasser Arafat, and hints that he too will be open to territorial compromise in the future - although he says he does not want to talk in terms of ultimate sovereignty. The Likud's campaign commercials have gone a long way since Shamir's statement about Gaza four years ago.

The one ideological component left in the conflict with the Palestinians is the unity of Jerusalem, but this is something which retains Israeli consensus.

When asked recently about whether the epic ideological struggle for all of Judea and Samaria is over, Netanyahu replied, "we cannot always fulfill our dreams."

Yet, Labor believes Netanyahu's pragmatism is doomed to fail due to dominant figures in the Likud coalition. In an interview this week, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak predicted, "Bibi [Netanyahu] will want to continue a pragmatic policy, but he won't be able to do. Rafil [Rafael Eitan] and Arik [Ariel Sharon], two people who proved themselves in manipulating Menachem Begin - someone who is deeper and smarter than Bibi - and proved themselves as being able to constrain Shamir - someone stronger than Bibi. His coalition will dictate his policies, not his own wishes."

Peres also has shifted his position, moving away from the integrationist talk of European-style open borders in Judea and Samaria. After the suicide bombings, Peres adopted the approach favored by Rabin, the majority of the Labor party and, according to the polls, the country: separation, or, reduced to a somewhat crude but successful bumper-sticker notion, "we are here and they are there."

Nobody believes separation can be hermetic, but there have been fewer suicide bombings during closures than when there are no limits on the numbers of entrants. (Some, like Netanyahu, believe that Peres can also reposition himself away from his campaign pledge after he is elected. This will not be simple since failure to do so will hurt him politically should there be more terror bombings in the future.)

The popularity of separation is a notion not lost on the Likud. A former Likud minister confided, "the public cares less where the border is than the fact

become de-ideologized, in its own way, is the haredim. Instead of favoring separatism as in the past or being subject completely to the calls of its rabbis, this election has marked the haredi public's move from observer to participant in Israeli society.

According to Moshe Halberthal, a Hebrew University professor of Jewish thought, "everybody is becoming less ideological, and more connected to reality. The haredi ideology of staying aloof from Israeli society has faded."

"It is not coincidental that rabbis are not telling their people how to vote, since they know the haredim are now making up their own minds anyway. This notion of haredim voting for secular figures tells us democracy has a power of integration."

One religious party which seeks to reposition its message is the National Religious Party. Instead of casting itself as it did in 1992 as the defenders of Judea and Samaria and being "at your right side," it now focuses its message on the success of its youth-movement graduates as officers in the IDF and wrapping itself in the mantle of being the "soldiers of the state."

Like Natan Sharansky's immigrants' party urging an intensification of the Zionist imperative for immigration, both are portraying themselves as idealists in a post-ideological age. (Having spent nine years in Soviet prison for his Zionist beliefs, it is virtually impossible to beat Sharansky in the idealist category.)

If the NRP and settler supporters have defined Zionist strength as taking another hilltop, both Labor and Likud are focusing more on economic growth as an engine for Israeli strength.

One almost cannot have a meeting with a cabinet minister today without having to listen to him speak glowingly of the country's \$80 billion GNP, talking with the same sense of pride Israelis used to reserve for newly acquired F-15 aircraft. Netanyahu seems closer to this mold than he does to Shamir, who used to relish telling reporters that economics was not his job and refer them to the finance minister.

Barak called for the definition of Zionist strength to be changed from "another sheep, another dunam" to the advance of the peace process as a vehicle for improving Israel's regional position and isolating dangerous rogue states like Iran and Iraq while integrating Israel into the world economy and increasing

the country's exports. "All these factors increase the security of Israel. There is no doubt about it," he said.

Economics might not only be a sign of change, it could represent the realignment of Israeli politics four to eight years down the road. After the peace process is sorted out, it could be that the Labor-Likud differences will be replaced by socioeconomic politics - the existing situation in the US and Europe - that confront issues such as big or small government and low or high taxes.

Populists like David Levy (Geshet) and old-time socialists like Yair Tzaban (Mapam) potentially could find themselves on the same side pitted against pro-business types like Netanyahu and Barak.

The one element which could complicate the totally economics-driven politics - considered by people in many countries to be normal - is the extent to which the old ideological divisions over the territories will be supplanted by fresh divisions along unpredictable lines on what does it mean for Israel to be a "Jewish state."

Many believe this could be the next big public debate as the territorial issue becomes less dominant.

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# The bubble that failed to burst

Michal Yudelman and Thomas O'Dwyer reflect on the election campaign

**W**HAT campaign? We could end the article there. It might best reflect the attitude on the streets. It is an election campaign enclosed in a transparent bubble. Within, little figures seem to dance and jump and rotate and grin. Outside, the bemused masses idly watch, and wait. They wait for the bubble to burst, for the little figures to grow to human size and stream into the streets with drama banging and banners flying.

"When is the circus coming to town?" the children might well ask. The most crucial elections in the nation's history? God help the nation! So, who said they are the most crucial in the nation's history, anyway? Why, those little gyrating politicians, of course, locked in their virtual-reality bubble. In real reality, people have a life. They are indeed swept up with enthusiasms, with passions, with questions about their futures. But they are not looking inside the bubble for the answers. Yes, it is a few days to general elections, and everyone supposes they will get out and do their civic duty and vote for someone. Definitely. They will vote for Tweedledum. Or maybe Tweedle-dee. A quick glance at the election posters for guidance. They are everywhere - same blue and white, same typeface, same slogans, same doves. Fine, but doesn't the other party have any posters? Oh, that is the other party. The most exciting elections either one of us covered as a journalist in this region was the presidential election in Cyprus at the

end of the '80s. Oceans of red flags led their troops against oceans of blue. Leftists thundered the rhetoric of the people across huge squares teeming with the masses. Rightists countered the next night with the rhetoric of the free-market people fighting communist conspiracy thundering across the same squares teeming with different masses. In a blaze of noise, tear-jerking patriotic Greek music, and blaring car horns, the joint masses streamed to the polls and journalists bit their nails through the night as the count rolled on ock to neck. In a television-rattling drama, the incumbent leftist president lost, barely. Now that's an election campaign. But Israel '96? No wonder a judge ruled that a shooting incident in the poster-pasting war between rival activists was "not political." No one in his right mind would believe that one person would shoot another in an ideological war between peace with security or security with peace. Jerusalem with peace or Jerusalem in peaceful pieces. A house divided against itself cannot stand, Israel must be in fine form then. Never mind a national unity government, we have a national unity election campaign. Everyone wants peace. Everyone wants Jerusalem. Everyone wants Oslo. No one likes Yasser Arafat, but the Palestinians do, so everyone will deal with him. Spot the difference. What we are left with is a hesitant debate over whether they really mean what they are saying. Can we believe Bibi Netanyahu or is he only crooning to the

floating vote while giving a nod and a wink to the true believers? If Labor is the bastion of equality, human rights, and separation of "church and state," why is Shimon Peres rushing around kippa to hand to religious and haredi parties, nodding and winking about the status quo with a hint of the rattle of shekels in the community chest? And what exactly is the price of all that peace? A Palestinian state? Evacuation of the West Bank settlements? Speak up Peres. IT'S a couch potato's election campaign. The streets and squares are deserted. Meet your candidate in the comfort of your own living room. Zap, time for

the *Hartzufim* - or the *X-Files*. Feet up, with coffee and cake in hand, in front of the television is not the most conducive atmosphere for political debate. The most menacing opponent in the room may be a yawning cat. The prevailing theories on why it has all been so dull appears to settle on two issues - the lingering numbness of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, and a watchful "will they, won't they?" response to warnings of terrorist plotting in the shadows. The assassination has undoubtedly led to the silencing of demagogues and a joint effort to lower the once shrill tone of national debate. Gone are the huge election events seeking to whip the streets into election frenzy.



# Blessed be the T-shirt

ZIPPORAH PORATH

**H**OW can you compare giving a voter a T-shirt to offering a memorial candle specially blessed by a revered rabbi? This from a young woman with a towel wrapped around her wet hair, at the neighborhood hairdresser. "What's the difference," answered Ziva the hairdresser. "Both gifts serve the same purpose - to lure voters and give the party power. And if the party gets the power, we'll have a better school deal, for one thing." There was no avoiding eavesdropping on this heated discussion. I was a captive audience. Ziva, with scissors in hand, was clipping my hair energetically; the more aggressive the argument, the faster she chopped. I was literally in her hands and must have looked uneasy. "Don't worry," she assured me. "I know you don't like it too short." Relieved, I could now give my attention to the discussion, which intrigued me because both these young women are religious, belong to the same synagogue and send their kids to the same school. The customer with the wet towel was upset by the bestowal of blessings on potential voters only. "How can a man of the rabbi's stature lower himself to be part of this politicking," she said. "I think it's shameful." Ziva understood his motives completely. "You give one person a T-shirt, another a personalized blessing. Everyone gets what makes them happy. What's wrong with that?" The customer turned on her. "Are you saying any means justifies the end?" Ziva stood her ground but slowed the pace of snipping my hair. The woman with the wet towel persisted. "On the way here I was almost knocked over by a pack of nine-year-olds distributing party fliers and fighting about who would hand me election material. I suppose you think it's all right to use children for that purpose?" Ziva said she didn't really like the idea, but she knows the kids are paid for their services, about eight shekels an hour, "and that's why they are so competitive and eager to do a good job." "And the parents know what they are doing and approve?" "Well of course they do. If the

kids didn't have permission, they wouldn't be used, would they? Somebody has to do it." "Would you let your children do this?" "Well, thank goodness, mine weren't approached," Ziva said. "Mostly it was kids from families who really need the money." "And that makes it OK?" Under her breath the lady with the wet towel said "Something is very wrong if you and the rabbi can't see where to draw the line." Clearly, she and Ziva had different perceptions of what their religious leaders should and should not do. Ziva stopped cutting my hair for a moment to attend to another customer. I watched fascinated as she grasped snippets of hair from the dark-haired lady, flattened a few strands on a square of tin foil, sneezed the locks with a light shade of hair color and then rolled them up like blintzes. I was so absorbed in watching this bizarre procedure I didn't listen to what the lady with the tin-foil halo was saying. She was lambasting the TV election broadcasts. "The issues are very clear," she said, "but the candidates aren't clear about what they are going to do." Ziva, returning to work on me, summed up her view. "Everyone got the message in the first three days. It doesn't change - the same old stuff over and over again. No wonder hardly anyone is paying attention." She gave an emphatic snip to the scissors, mumbling: "Imagine what could be done with all the money those broadcasts cost." From the corner of the room another customer added her comment: "It's like a person being persuaded to buy something on credit and only when he has to pay the bill realizing it wasn't what he really wanted." My haircut was finished, turning out better than I had expected under the circumstances. Now it was haircut time for the lady with the wet towel. I no longer had any excuse to linger. Where the discussion led after I left, I have no idea. In any case, the promotion gimmicks continue, along with distribution of T-shirts and TV fanfare - all part of the election bandwagon scene. Perhaps, as Ziva says: "Everyone gets what makes him happy."

## EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW



(and some things you probably DON'T want to know) about the May 29 elections, will be explored in a special election supplement distributed with *The Jerusalem Post* on Sunday, May 26. For essential information about the candidates, the new election procedures, the two ballots you cast, the possible post-election scenarios, and profiles of the rivals for the premiership...

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anything he has to say. Were we not always taught that beauty is only skin deep and we had better develop our personality and skills if we want to amount to anything? Now we are asked to believe it's OK for a politician aspiring to lead the country to require nothing more than a good profile and an American or French advertising expert. Israelis were always experts at political jargon, ideological fractals, points of order, and committee arcanas. All gone - make way for multimedia magic, marketing mumbo jumbo, pink cheeks and packaging, and Friday night salon discussions. The entire campaign now focuses on the parties' propaganda broadcasts; the respected analysts of the diminishing print media are sent off to dissect not real issues, but fabricated video clips which no one in the ordinary office or cafe admits to watching anyway. In a way, this makes things much simpler - the obtuse

Marshall McLuhan was a prophet after all. The medium is the message. Thus the real Likud concept of a final peace is not spelled out, but is merely symbolized by an advertising agency trick. The soaring dove that opens its propaganda clips turns out to be merely flapping desperately, its feet tethered to a pole. In animal-crazy Britain, that would surely cost any party the entire election. Here? The opposition's attempt to propagandize it in a rival clip may have been as effective as selling orange juice with sexy women, or not. What is Labor's idea of security? Behold, Peres the grandfatherly nanny whom all the children, and especially the teenagers with votes, love. The campaign broadcasts are it - the election campaign. And who cares? After all, as Jerry Seinfeld once said: "If I wanted a boring story that goes on and on with no point to it, I don't need television. I have my life."



STATE OF ISRAEL  
Central Committee for the Election of the  
14th Knesset and of the Prime Minister

## Clarification regarding BLANK VOTING SLIPS

In view of the many questions received, and the "information" being publicly circulated, we wish to advise the public, as follows:

- a. In every voting booth, in addition to printed voting slips, there will be blank voting slips (for the Knesset, white slips; for the prime minister, yellow slips). These slips are for use, should there be a lack of regular voting slips for any of the lists contesting the Knesset elections, or for any candidate for prime minister. A voter who wishes to use one of these slips must write the letters of the Knesset list he wishes to vote for (on a blank white slip) or the name of the candidate for prime minister he wishes to vote for (on a blank yellow slip).
- b. A blank voting slip on which nothing has been written, found in a voting envelope, will be regarded as disqualified, and will not be counted with the valid votes.







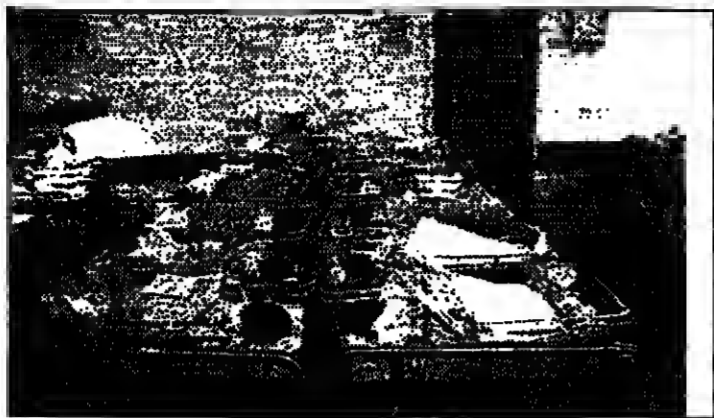


# Laniado Hospital Develops Cancer Treatment Services

Shavuot marks the first anniversary of Laniado's enlarged Maternity Department in the new building of the Sanz Medical Center in Netanya. Like the Jewish people who came of age between Pesach and Shavuot, so too the Laniado Hospital came of age with the opening of the new modern Medical Center Building last Shavuot.

Chaim Fachler, Director of Laniado's Development and Fundraising, explains that the Netanya hospital has upgraded in so many spheres. Not only has there been an increase of 60 percent in the number of deliveries per month - now over 300 - there is also a distinct upbeat mood with regards to future development plans. Health Minister Dr. Ephraim Sneh recently announced that 150 additional beds are earmarked for Laniado Hospital by the year 2000.

"This will need additional aggressive world-wide fundraising," says Fachler, "but we are prepared for the challenge." It is no surprise that Laniado Hospital, the only hospital serving the health



care needs of the over 220,000 residents of the Greater Netanya area, has developed into an institution where many highly-qualified professionals are making important inroads in a wide range of cancer treatments and environmental and occupational health areas.

It now takes only five minutes for Netanya residents requiring chemotherapy to reach the out-patient unit. With the recent opening of the new Oncology Unit at Sanz Medical Center Laniado Hospital, patients no longer have

to travel to hospitals in Petah Tikva and Tel Aviv for treatment. Over 200 people a month have already been treated at the new unit.

Directed by Dr. Yael Merrick, the unit has already received a stack of thank-you letters from patients who appreciate the special personal care they receive. Laniado is also making its mark with the operation of its Chernobyl Clinic which was especially established to address the needs of the over 8,000 residents

of Netanya who had resided in the Chernobyl area of the former Soviet Union. The Hematology Unit, under the direction of Dr. Shlomo Bulvik, has also taken an active part in helping the community. Dr. Bulvik's department is routinely crowded. The Hematology Unit will shortly be installing a Cord Stem Cell System which will store cells extracted from the mother's placenta after birth. These cells could be used as perfect matches for bone marrow tissue transplants. The Laniado medical staff is involved in a number of innovative projects; during the next two months alone eight papers will be presented at international conferences describing new research and treatments by Laniado's doctors.

# Michlalah Jerusalem College

The night of intensive Torah study on Shavuot is an extremely memorable and moving experience for the students of "Machal" (the Linda Pinsky School for Overseas Students at Michlalah Jerusalem College). Machal's 150 students participate in an all-night session of Torah study and lectures by the Michlalah faculty, and they then walk to the Western Wall and join in the sunrise services.

Each year Machal attracts outstanding high school graduates from overseas who are motivated to spend a year in Israel studying Torah, advancing their level of Torah knowledge and developing their learning skills. About a quarter of them continue their studies at Michlalah for at least another year. Michlalah, founded in 1964 by Rabbi Yehudah Cooperman, renowned Biblical exegete and author, is Israel's premier teachers' college. It includes 14 schools and programs that offer a wide range of Torah and general subjects. Close to 4,000 graduates are presently engaged in education and administration all over the world. Michlalah offers majors in Jewish

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The Special Education Program for Extension Studies not only offers a degree program for non-academic teachers but also offers a program for academically-trained teachers in other fields who retain to specialize in this field. A retraining program in guidance and counseling is also offered. An M.A. Equivalency Program in Jewish



Studies allows teachers the opportunity of advancing professionally. Two hundred women are presently registered in this program.

An off-campus Extension Studies Program for Yeshiva men with Teacher Certification, launched in 1992, offers an advanced Jewish Studies B. Ed. Degree Program. More than 450 have been awarded. A men's program for the training of

principals offers experienced teachers a Ministry of Education Principal Certification; a number of graduates have already received appointments as principals.

Michlalah's developing Home Page: <http://www.jercol.maccam98.ac.il> offers educational services. Pinsky's Teachers Employment Service is located at: <http://www.jercol.maccam98.ac.il/pinsky.html>

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Rachel Imeinu always watches over every single Jew, man and woman alike. What are we doing to watch over her? Even though the Tomb of Rachel Imeinu in Bethlehem is located right next to Jerusalem, Rachel Imeinu dwells in isolation.

Young "bahurei yeshiva" at the renowned Mercaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem, instilled with the unwavering belief in Eretz Yisrael as the heritage of our fathers, established a yeshiva in the monument honoring Rachel Imeinu's burial site.

Sounds of prayer and Torah study resound in the Beit Midrash of the yeshiva, which is a branch of the central Mercaz Harav Yeshiva in Kiryat Moshe. The yeshiva has just celebrated its first anniversary, and its ongoing Torah activities are the most effective way of strengthening and ensuring the Jewish people's ownership and authority over the Tomb of Rachel Imeinu.

An attempt was made to erect a fence around the tomb, but since it aroused the ire of Bethlehem's Arab population, the plan was foiled. The permanent presence

of "bahurei yeshiva" at the tomb site nevertheless greatly strengthens our ability to watch over and guard Rachel Imeinu, just as she constantly looks out for us.

You are invited to come to visit Rachel Imeinu, to offer your encouragement to these self-sacrificing young men whose constant presence there ensures that Rachel Imeinu truly remains with us.

Every Jewish man and woman has as his or her birthright, the right to have a share in Rachel's Tomb. Requests for prayers to be said for loved ones may be faxed to (02) 654-0356. To have a share in the mitzva of watching over Rachel Imeinu and her resting place, you can send your donation to POB 34100, Jerusalem, Rachel Imeinu, Tel.: (02)651-1248.

# The Jerusalem College of Technology:

## Bringing High-Tech Management and Marketing to Israel

by Gershon Miles

What comes first - Research and Development or Marketing Surveys? Contrary to what most Israelis believe, both are necessary to ensure that the product you are developing will have market appeal and the right price. Everyone today understands the importance of the effective use of media campaigns for marketing a new brand of toothpaste, but Israel's high-tech companies cannot easily find professional marketing experts who are also comfortable with the technology behind the product. Having a proficient marketing engineer can make all the difference in successfully planning and executing a marketing strategy. But there is more than that. Many times, the marketing engineer who keeps his ears open will return to his headquarters with information about opportunities for new products, competitor's selling points and other valuable inputs.

The Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) is Israel's first institute of higher learning to offer an undergraduate degree in Technology Management and Marketing. The new program, slated to begin in September, will serve the changing needs of industry

and create a more efficient link between Israel's proven engineering capability and nascent marketing expertise. The JCT program proposes to train a new generation of professionals who will bridge the worlds of technology management and marketing. Technology management is the discipline that successful high-tech ventures use to address issues that cross the boundaries of technology and market development.

Some of the basic questions are: What technology should be developed? When are strategic partners needed? How do you channel engineering creativity towards innovative high value-added products that customers buy? The lack of technology management is a major cause for failures of Israeli high-tech companies. Technology management is not a new idea. It started at a few leading US engineering schools and spread to hundreds of institutions worldwide in response to increasingly intense global competition in the high technology sector. "The field continues to expand in both the US and non-US universities," reported the IEEE Engineering Management Society. Most US full-time technology management students are in undergraduate programs at engineering



The Jerusalem College of Technology in its environs

schools. Based on the experience of US institutions, JCT - the only high-tech engineering college in Jerusalem - views this new department as a natural fit. The college supplies about 25 per cent of Israel's engineers in the fields of electro-optics, electronics and computers. Already in 1992, JCT recognized the need for better management tools and opened Israel's only department in Managerial Accounting. Traditional approaches to management and marketing education are isolated from technology.

Business school graduates learn about management but not about technology, while engineers have difficulty communicating with marketing managers

who do not understand "techno-speak." Only when engineering managers go to business school or after many years of work experience do the worlds of technology management and marketing come together. That is why JCT's program is so unique.

The college is now recruiting students and corporate sponsors for the 1996-97 academic year. The new technology management and marketing program combines academic studies with real world experience in projects for local high-tech ventures. More information is available on the Internet home page <http://shekel.jct.ac.il/~tmm>, or from Dr. Gershon Miles, (02) 751148, head of the JCT Technology Management and Marketing Program.

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For information and direct donations: Prof. Eliezer Jaffe, Honorary Chairman, The Israel Free Loan Association, 64 Azza Street, 92384 Jerusalem  
 Tel. 02-630248, Fax. 02-669504

Please remember the IFLA in your will.



# Computer Training Library For the Blind in Jerusalem

Computer Education at the Jewish Institute for the Blind helps keep the students abreast of current technology. Some of the computers are equipped with magnifying devices which greatly enlarge the screens; there is also new voice to speak to one another.

The students are taught to use recently acquired modern power Braille that appears on the com-

puter screen.

The Institute's library has a large selection of books in Braille or on tapes for the pupil's use. There is a wide choice of textbooks for high school and university students and a large collection of religious works is also available. The recording studio and news service enable the blind throughout Israel to keep up with current events.

Try to imagine being in the dark for just one day!

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# The Israel Free Loan Association -

## Better than Charity

Jewish Tradition teaches that there is something even better than charity. Nearly a thousand years ago, the sage Maimonides wrote: "A loan is better than charity, for it enables one to help himself."

The Israel Free Loan Association (IFLA) in Jerusalem has been bringing this ideal to reality since 1990. The IFLA has extended over \$6 million in interest-free loans to more than 6,500 new immigrants and their families from the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Ethiopia, and to Israeli families in need.

The IFLA grants over 200 new loans every month, but the need

is much greater. The waiting list for new loans continues to grow.

The IFLA is a respected non-profit organization, registered and approved by the Israel Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Finance. All donations are tax-deductible. The IFLA is completely non-political and managed by a small staff (many of whom are immigrants themselves), supported by many experienced and dedicated volunteers. The IFLA is managed by a volunteer board of directors, chaired by Professor Eliezer Jaffe, and assisted by a volunteer Advisory Committee. All activities of the IFLA are monitored

by the Board of Directors, a CPA and a lawyer, as required by Israeli law.

To ensure repayment of loans, all applicants must show proof of steady employment, reasonable income and have two non-relative guarantors who are also employed. Over 98% of borrowers have been very reliable in paying back their loans. Since the IFLA's overhead expenses are covered by a special grant, 100% of all contributions go for loans to the people in need. A gift to the IFLA is a gift in perpetuity. Because all loan repayments are immediately loaned out again to help others, contributions continue to circulate through the years ahead. A gift, for example, of \$10,000 recycled in the course of ten years provides 100 loans of \$1,000 each - resulting in a "helping value" of \$100,000!

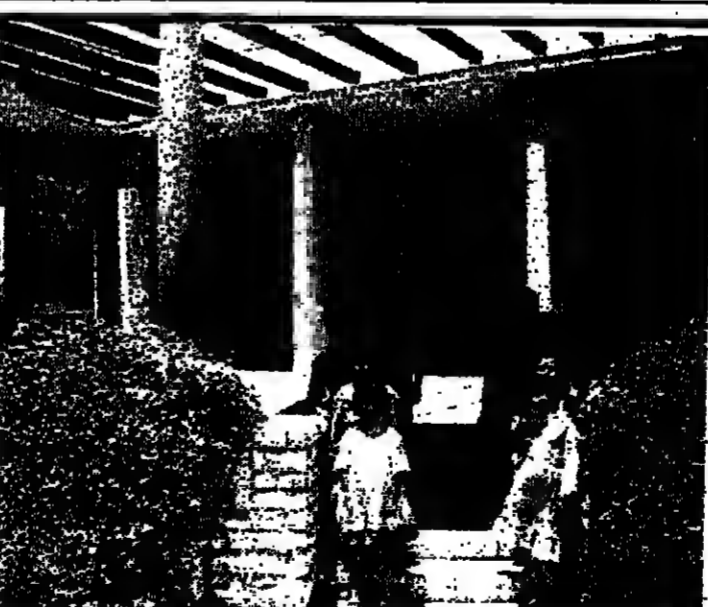
In view of the waiting list of loan applicants, the IFLA urgently needs new contributions. Because of an excellent

record of reliability and accountability in administering funds, donors have chosen to use the IFLA for direct donations and for opening their charitable loan programs in Israel.

The IFLA was chosen as recipient of the Mayor of Jerusalem's Citation for Outstanding Non-Profit Voluntary Organization for 1995.

All transactions regarding loans and repayments are fully computerized, allowing the IFLA to provide contributors with reliable and up-to-date records at any time. Donations are tax-exempt in Israel and overseas to the maximum allowed by law. Anyone who wants to help Israel in a direct way that's better than charity, should consider giving loans through the IFLA.

For more information, write to the Israel Free Loan Association, 64 Azza Road, Jerusalem, 92384.



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In 1996/97 Beit Morasha will be opening its doors for the first time to graduate students from outside of Israel. This is an opportunity to join a select group of students in their struggle with the dilemmas of modern religious life. Come learn source texts, and acquire the historical and philosophical skills to face our heritage openly, and honestly.

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- \* Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, President
- \* Prof. Shalom Rosenberg, Medieval Jewish Philosophy
- \* Prof. Rabbi Daniel Sperber, Head of Beit Midrash, former Dean of Talmudic Studies, Bar Ilan University
- \* Dr. Rabbi David Henschke, Talmudic Studies
- \* Prof. Yehudah Cellman, Philosophy of Religion
- \* Rabbi Mordechai Breuer, Biblical Studies

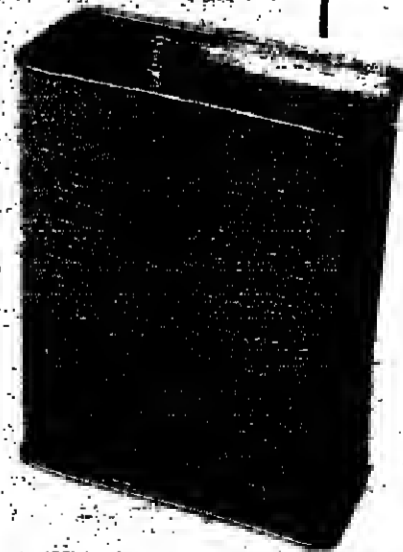
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 44 King George St., POB 71134, Jerusalem 91079, Israel, Phone: (972)-2-258624, Tele/Fax: (972)-2-258631  
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Astaire and Partners Ltd. Member of the London Stock Exchange International Money Managers and Stockbrokers Dealing worldwide in bonds and equities...

Gov't probes cartel charges against Bank Tefahot, insurers

BANK Tefahot and eight insurance companies are under investigation on suspicions that they are acting as a cartel, a Bank of Israel spokesman confirmed yesterday.

earthquake insurance policies on apartments to Bank Tefahot borrowers in 1995. Bank Tefahot, which is the largest mortgage bank in the country, is suspected of mediating in the insurance field without being licensed to do so.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

with. As far as we know, [the bank] is legally covered. Clal Insurance's participation in Tefahot customers' insurance policies is 26.5%, Sahar's 22.5%, Aryeh's 15%, Phoenix's 13%, Eitan's 9.5%, Generali's 7%, Zion's 4% and Eliyahu's 2.5%.

ing them of the severity of their actions and asking for their reactions. So far, he has not received a response. Soror could not be reached for comment. The supervisor has reportedly conducted a preliminary examination which shows that the insurance policy holders were not defrauded as a result of the episode.

Mizrahi workers: Strike to resume next week

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNITED Mizrahi Bank (UMB) workers yesterday decided to stop negotiations with management and renew work sanctions as of next week.

Sara Leiserovitz, head of the workers committee, said the workers agreed to UMB general manager Victor Medioa's request to stop sanctions and negotiate with management one week ago, but after the first three days of discussions it was clear that management is not interested in offering a reasonable contract.

Rothschild Bank AG Zollikerstrasse 181, 8034 Zurich Tel. 01/384 71 11 Consultant in Israel: Joel L. Katz P.O. Box 3167, Herzlia B 46104...

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Africa-Israel profits up 15%

COMPANY RESULTS Jerusalem Post Staff

AFRICA Israel Investments completed the first quarter with a 15-percent growth in net profits to NIS 33.6 million from NIS 29m. in the corresponding period last year.

from NIS 22.49m. Migdal reported a rise in net profit to NIS 33.28m. from NIS 20.2m. The rise was mainly due to a significant improvement in profits from the general insurance business to NIS 18.9m. from NIS 1m.

Henkel buys 50% of Sod

Jerusalem Post Staff

SHEMEN, a subsidiary of Koor's food division, has signed an agreement to sell 50 percent of its fully owned subsidiary, detergent manufacturer Sod, to the German Henkel consortium for NIS 23.59 million, the company announced yesterday.

ment of a general manager and financial manager. In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Shemen said the agreement is retroactive to the start of the year. As a result, Shemen set aside provisions of NIS 316,000 in the first quarter for Henkel's share in Sod's net profits.

Henkel's investment will be used to increase Sod's production capacity and expand its distribution network, which in recent months has suffered from stronger competition from local manufacturers and importers — leading to an erosion in market prices.

The two companies signed a letter of intent to enter a joint venture agreement in July 1995, but it was subject to the approval of both companies' board of directors. Koor said the agreement is part of the group's strategic policy to reach partnership agreements with leading companies worldwide.

MUTUAL FUND TARGET (מטרות) Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents Date: 21.5.96 Purchase Price: 149.41 Redemption Price: 147.22

PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents Date: 21.5.96 Purchase Price: 109.12 Redemption Price: 107.67

Hamashbir Investments issues shares at \$26m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

HAMASHBIR Hameraki's board of directors has approved a private issue of 40 percent of its holding company Hamashbir Investments to a consortium of investors, headed by Africa Israel, for \$26 million. Hamashbir Hameraki will continue to hold 60% of the shares.

The company intends to enter new fields, such as heavy equipment, import of private vehicles, rental of commercial vehicles, and obtaining exclusive representation for international brands.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS Table with columns for Currency (U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, etc.), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS, and Banknotes (Buy, Sell, Rate).

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Key Representative Rates. Change. US dollar ... NIS 3.2610 -0.42% Sterling ... NIS 4.9251 -0.48% Mark ... NIS 2.1157 -0.41%

INFLATION STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes. Last Change. DJ Industrials 9775.52 +0.28 DJ Transp. 2298.42 +1.27

Other stock market indexes. Last Change. FTSE 100 3764.2 -0.2

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX. Last Change. Amptel A 3.25 +0.3 Amptel B 3.75 +0.05

(All Ratings are closing quotes) Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 22-MAY-96)

INFLATION MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Last Change. Pound 1.5995 +0.005 D-mark 1.5434 +0.0019

Labor rates

Last Change. Daily 3 months 0.6388 8 Dollar 12 months 0.5757 8

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. 34 Ben Yehuda St, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826 Fax. 02-244876

INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Last Change. Cocoa (L) 1282 +5.01 Coffee (L) 1282 +3.75

Spot market metals (US)

Last Change. Gold 397.75 +0.17 Silver 5.52 +0.03

New York metal futures

Last Change. Gold (Aug) 395.3 -0.9 Silver (Jul) 5.43 -0.04

London metal futures

Last Change. Gold (Jul) 395.3 -0.9 Silver (Jul) 5.43 -0.04

TEL AVIV STOCKS

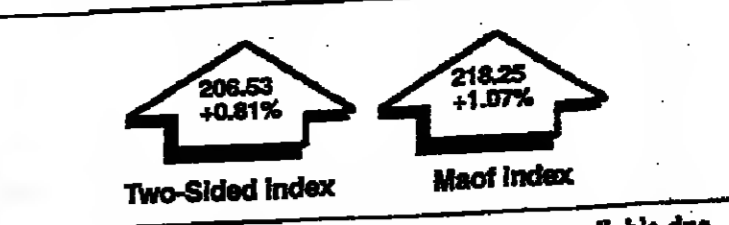
Multi-sided trading. AFTERNOON. Name Price Change % Volume

Commercial Banks, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, Oil Exploration, PARALLEL LIST Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, Industrials

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK. Price chg. Chemical. Price chg. Chemical. Price chg. Chemical. Price chg. Chemical.



The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange report was unavailable due to technical difficulties.

Euro shares weakened by Wall Street jitters

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) - European shares were undermined by Wall Street's volatility yesterday, first extending their earlier losses, then rallying, only to end under pressure.

French shares suffered the most, losing 1.23 percent. British shares shed 0.67% and German shares were off 0.6% in post-bourse computerized trading.

All three of Europe's major bourses had started weaker after Wall Street fell on Tuesday.

French shares tumbled 26.22 points to test support at 2,100, as hopes faded of a French interest rate cut today.

"Bonds aren't looking very well either," one French dealer said. "The feeling is that there won't be an interest rate cut tomorrow as added to the pessimism."

British shares were also hit by political worries arising from the government's handling of the European Union's ban on British beef exports because of fears of mad cow disease.

By the end of an edgy session, the FTSE 100 had slipped 25.2 points to 3,764.2, just off its lowest level for the day.

Politically-sensitive utility stocks took the brunt of the market's worries as concerns that the ruling Conservatives may be risking their fragile majority by their handling of the EU beef ban kicked sentiment.

Fears that the government may be forced to call an early general election and worries over the impact of a Labor government have repeatedly spooked the market in recent months.

"Some think this European thing is going to blow up and others think it's sabre-rattling," said a dealer. "Either way it's trouble that they (the Conservatives) could do without."

Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday threatened to paralyze European Union business unless the beef exports block is ended.

Weaker bonds added to the downward pressure on stocks as worries about the beef dispute hit home.

German shares, digesting a new record set a day earlier, closed lower after German data indicated the perception that the Bundesbank would not ease credit in the near term, analysts said.

The dollar's drop back below 1.54 marks from 16-month highs at 1.5456 raised questions about how sustainable the dollar rally is and how much further it can go.

Many analysts believe the dollar is set for a period of gradual and modest rises.

"The dollar still has scope for modest gradual rises given the situation in Germany, and we don't expect the Federal Reserve to tighten credit soon, which is good for US asset markets and should keep the demand for dollars going," said Stephen Hannah, director of research at IBI International.

The focus remains on 1.5500 marks as the next dollar target provided it holds above support at 1.5380, dealers said.

Blue chips hit new high

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks jumped into the record books again yesterday, after a one-day pause for profit-taking on Tuesday.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended with a gain of 41.74 points at 5,778.00, beating the old high set just on Monday at 5,748.82.

In the broader market, advancing issues led decline 12-10 on active trading of 422 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

TURKEY

(Continued from Page 1) "Operationally, I believe Turkey will be able to hold the line and maintain the agreement because the military, which is very influential on matters of national security, seems very determined to keep it in place. They feel a connection with Israel, the strongest military power in the region."

"They see the agreement as very much in the Turkish national strategic interest, and particularly as a deterrent to Syrian support of Kurdish terrorism. I think the Turkish military sees its cooperation with Israel as a strategic relationship that should grow."

Adm. Guven Erkaya, commander of the Turkish navy, is now visiting Israel at the invitation of OC Navy Rear-Adm. Alex Tal. Erkaya is due to meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres today.

It is precisely the support of the powerful Turkish military which gives Israelis and analysts hope that the agreement will withstand the criticism of Syria, Iran, and Islamic elements inside Turkey.

Alan Makovsky, an expert on Turkey at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, remained cautiously optimistic.

CLINTON

(Continued from Page 1) Following the sixth day of meetings, Syrian Ambassador Walid Mualem told reporters Tuesday evening that Damascus had proposed that the five-member committee - to be comprised of the US, France, Israel, Syria, and Lebanon - be convened within 72 hours after the lodging of a complaint of a cease-fire violation, and that during that time, no retaliatory action could occur.

He also said that because of disagreements over defining the borders of the security zone in southern Lebanon, the draft agreement will omit the matter altogether.

Mualem said that in the event of an incident in Lebanon, the Israeli representative would not be part of the investigating team, and if in Israel, the Syrian and Lebanese officials would not be included. In such cases, the US and French would enter the territory, he said.

"State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters the US believes Israeli-Syrian peace talks could resume 'as soon as possible' following Wednesday's elections.

The US view is based on conversations held recently between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli, Lebanese, and Syrian leaders, Burns said.

He said he did not know whether Damascus' agreement to proceed with the negotiations is conditioned on Peres emerging victorious next week.

Meanwhile, Iran rejected the US claim that Iran is the main sponsor of international terrorism.

The US and Israel are on to destroy Iran's Islamic government by leveling false accusations of terrorism against it, Tehran Radio said.

"Relentless and fabricated propaganda by the United States and the Zionist regime is part of their common strategy to destroy the Islamic government in Iran," the radio said.

It challenged Washington to prove allegations of Iranian involvement in terrorism anywhere in the world.

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**PROGRAM SPECIALIST**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which administers U.S. assistance to Palestinians in support of the peace process, is seeking a highly qualified candidate for a Personal Services Contract (12 months renewable) for the position of Program Specialist. The incumbent will provide input and manage elements of the Mission's operations related to overall strategy development, budget planning, and design/implementation of activities. Specific cross-sectoral responsibilities will include: coordination of program information and planning with the Palestinian Authority and other donors; the establishment and maintenance of resource tracking systems; strategic analysis; and impact measurement and reporting. The position is based in Tel Aviv, with substantial time spent in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. The candidate should have a graduate level degree in an area such as public/business administration, political or social sciences, economics or law, fluency in English and Arabic, excellent interpersonal skills and six to eight years of progressively responsible experience working in the budgeting, planning, design and implementation of development programs. The requirement for a graduate degree may be waived based on experience level. Some significant portion of that experience should have been in the West Bank and/or Gaza. Only responses that include a detailed curriculum vitae and employment/salary history for the last three years will be considered. Responses must indicate position number C20536. Applications should be submitted no later than June 5, 1996, and sent to the following address: Personnel Office, American Embassy, 71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, Israel.

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Labor problems at airport, Interior Ministry, hospitals

HISTADRUT Chairmen Amir Perez, Transport Ministry Director-General Eiliah and Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet will meet today in an attempt to solve the crisis at the Airports Authority. This follows yesterday's issuance of an order preventing workers at Beo-Gorion Airport from continuing their sanctions by the Tel Aviv Labor Court.

Maccabi, Meuhedet health funds in talks on unifying some services

FINANCIALLY pressed as a result of the national health insurance system, the Maccabi and Meuhedet health funds said yesterday that they were examining ways to unify some services and save money without causing a decline in the level of medical care to members. Maccabi, the second largest public health insurer, and Meuhedet, the smallest of the four, are looking into unifying medical services in outlying areas, as well as cooperating in computer, pharmacy and other facilities around the country.

אפילו לכה

# Juventus beats Ajax to win Champions Cup

ROME (AP)—Juventus of Turin beat Ajax of Amsterdam 4-2 on penalty kicks last night after the teams tied 1-1 after 30 minutes of supplemental time. Neither team held the upper

hand through the two scoreless 15-minute periods of extra time after ending the regulation 90 minutes with one goal apiece. Finnish striker Jari Litmanen scored in the 41st minute to bring

Ajax of Amsterdam level after Fabrizio Ravanelli capitalized on a defensive lapse to give Juventus a 1-0 lead after 13 minutes.

Ajax was aiming for a second straight Champions Cup title and fifth overall. Juventus won the Cup in 1985.

Litmanen, the leading scorer in the Cup competition with nine goals, slotted home a bouncing ball after Juventus goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi punched out a free kick by Ajax defender Frank de Boer.

De Boer, the Dutch international whose status for the game was in doubt due to an ankle injury, and goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar crossed signals on a loose ball in the 13th minute and each failed to clear it. Ravanelli pounced on the opportunity and rolled a slow, angled shot into the empty net.

De Boer limped off the field in the 68th minute, substituted by veteran Arnold Schooten.

# Bulls tame Magic

CHICAGO (AP)—Playing poorly and looking lethargic, the Chicago Bulls seemed ready to fall. Michael Jordan wouldn't let them lose, however, and their defense lifted them to a 93-88 victory over the Orlando Magic.

Jordan scored 25 of his 35 points in the second half, when Chicago rallied from an 18-point deficit Tuesday night and take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals. "I'm the leader of this ballclub," Jordan said. "I've got to do something if things are stagnant."

The best-of-7 series shifts to Orlando for Game 3 Saturday and Game 4 Monday. Only seven teams in NBA history have rallied from 2-0 deficits.

Orlando, humiliated by 38 points in Game 1, played much better Tuesday even without injured forward Horace Grant. But the Magic scored only 35 second-half points against the Bulls' full-court pressing and half-court trapping defense.

Shaquille O'Neal, who had 36 points and 16 rebounds, bulled his way past Luc Longley for a short hook shot to give the Magic a 64-46 lead with 6:17 left in the third

quarter. But unable to solve the Bulls' defense, Orlando missed 11 of 12 shots and committed five turnovers during the next 10 minutes as Chicago used a 26-5 run to take a 72-69 lead early in the fourth quarter. Jordan had nine points during the surge.

Orlando came back to take an 81-79 lead on O'Neal's layup with four minutes left, but the Bulls scored the next nine points—15-foot jumpers by Jordan and Steve Kerr, two free throws by Randy Brown, a foul shot by Dennis Rodman and a layup by Scottie Pippen—for an 88-81 advantage with 41 seconds left.

Jordan wrapped up the win with four free throws. Pippen had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Rodman added a season-high 15 points and 12 rebounds.

**NBA CONFERENCE FINALS**  
**TUESDAY'S RESULTS:**  
 Chicago 93, Orlando 88  
 (Chicago leads series 2-0)  
**TOMORROW NIGHT:**  
 Seattle at Utah  
 (Seattle leads series 2-0)

# Colorado stops Detroit

DETROIT (AP)—Colorado goaltender Patrick Roy continued to frustrate Detroit as the Avalanche defeated the Red Wings 3-0 Tuesday night to go up 2-0 in the Western Conference finals of the NHL playoffs.

After winning an NHL-record 62 games without being shut out during the season, the Red Wings now have been blanked in regulation in three of their last six playoff games. The loss was the fourth at home in the playoffs for the Red Wings, who only dropped three at Joe Louis Arena during the entire regular season.

Joe Sakic, the leading scorer in the playoffs, Warren Rychel and Sandis Ozolinsh scored for the Avalanche.

The best-of-7 series moves to Denver for Games 3 and 4.

**NHL CONFERENCE FINALS**  
**TUESDAY'S RESULTS:**  
 Colorado 3, Detroit 0  
 (Colorado leads series 2-0)  
**TONIGHT:**  
 Detroit at Colorado  
**TOMORROW NIGHT:**  
 Pittsburgh at Florida  
 (Series tied 1-1)

### BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

#### TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Kansas City 7, Detroit 1  
Seattle 13, Boston 7  
New York 7, Oakland 3  
Chicago 2, Toronto 1  
Cleveland 6, Milwaukee 5  
Minnesota 4, Texas 3  
California 5, Baltimore 2

#### TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:

San Francisco 8, Montreal 5  
Chicago 4, Atlanta 2  
Florida 3, Cincinnati 2  
St. Louis 8, Houston 2  
Colorado 12, Pittsburgh 10  
Los Angeles 6, New York 4  
Philadelphia 5, San Diego 4

### Jerusalem Post Softball League

A Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
16	0	1.000	-	Zorinos
14	1	.857	1.5	Global Financial
10	5	.667	5.5	Arch Seminars
10	6	.625	6	Shari Tel Tigers
8	5	.615	6.5	Norman's Steakhouse
6	8	.500	8	Rasbi Furniture
5	9	.359	10	Crazy Richards
2	12	.143	13	Showra Cubs

B Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
6	7	.462	-	Aztek Glamors
6	9	.400	1	Vision Center
5	8	.385	1	Kala Pirota
4	9	.308	2	Hassid Benny
4	10	.286	2.5	Nir Media
3	11	.214	3.5	Kibutz Gazer

# One Vote for the Prime Minister, and One to Keep Him in the Center

On Wednesday, May 29, everyone will have two votes - one for prime minister and one to free him from the extremists in his camp and to enable him to set up the responsible, centrist government which the majority of the nation wants:

- 1 A government which will further the peace process through a willingness to compromise, but which will emphasize the country's security when determining the final status.
- 2 A government which will ensure that the Golan and greater Jerusalem remain under Israeli sovereignty.
- 3 A government which will relinquish control over the majority of the Palestinians and which will disengage from them for good.
- 4 A government which will maintain the Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion and the essential blocs of settlement as integral parts of Israel.

On May 29, use one vote to elect the prime minister and one to keep him in the center



Meeting in the Center

The Third Way

for National Consensus

Group call for winner not to trample losers

THINK

ממשלה

# New censorship deal signed

A NEW censorship agreement was signed yesterday by Defense Minister Shimon Peres and representatives of print and broadcast journalists, replacing an earlier pact dating back to 1966.

As in the previous agreement, a three-member appeals committee will hear complaints of either the censor or the journalists, but the committee will be headed by a jurist, to be chosen jointly by the defense minister and the chairman of the Editors' Committee.

The other two members of the committee will be chosen by the chief of general staff and the Editors' Committee, in coordination with broadcast journalists.

A second change allows journalists to appeal the committee's

decision to the High Court, while the chief censor may not do so, if he disagrees with the committee.

As in the previous agreement, military censorship will only be applied in cases involving national security that have a near certainty of hurting Israel's defense interests.

"I promise that in the new Middle East there will be no need for censorship," Defense Minister Shimon Peres quipped.

The agreement was signed by Peres, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, Yair Stern, representative of the Editors' Committee; Alter Wilner, secretary of the committee; and representatives of *Ha'aretz* and *Yedioth Aharanot*, which do not belong to the Editors' Committee. (10m)



Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Editors' Committee head Yair Stern sign the new censorship agreement yesterday in Tel Aviv. (The Oryndriver/Israel Sun)

# Massive manhunt launched for murder suspect

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE have launched a massive hunt for Amiram Hochberg, wanted in connection with the murder of Ida Bleichman, whose body was found in her Rehovot apartment on Monday night.

Yesterday police found the car belonging to Shlomit Bleichman, the victim's daughter and Hochberg's girlfriend, on a Rehovot street. Inside the car, which was full of blood stains, was a blood-stained towel.

A woman's handbag, containing sunglasses and other personal items, was also found discovered in the car.

Police searched the orange groves and fields in the Rehovot area for clues that could lead them to Bleichman, Hochberg, or their son Itai, 12.

Police have checked with airport and port police and found that they have not left the country under their real names.

The couple had fought over their son, said sources, and Ida Bleichman also objected to the relationship between her daughter and Hochberg. Police are looking for a white GMC van, license 279-53-18, which was rented on May 14 by Hochberg and which was not returned.

### WEATHER

**Jerusalem** 20-27  
**Tel Aviv** 22-28  
**Be'er Sheva** 18-25  
**Haifa** 18-26  
**Netanya** 18-25  
**Beer Sheva** 18-25  
**Dead Sea** 25-38

Forecast: Hotter and dryer than usual.  
 Friday & Saturday: Partly cloudy to clear.  
 Gradual drop in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High
Buenos Aires	10-15	20-25
London	8-12	15-18
Los Angeles	15-20	25-30
Moscow	5-10	15-20
New York	12-18	20-25
Paris	10-15	18-22
Rome	15-20	25-30
Tokyo	18-22	25-30
Sydney	15-20	25-30

# Court to State: Explain indictment despite illegal wiretapping

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice gave the state 15 days to explain why it should be allowed to indict attorney Mordechai Katz after allegedly wiretapping him illegally.

The state wants to indict Katz for obstructing justice, charging that he transferred hush money from *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi to accused wiretappers Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur.

The money was meant to stop Friedman and Tsur from revealing that Nimrodi had commissioned them to do illegal wiretaps.

In order to get information against Katz, the state obtained court permission to wiretap his office phone. However, Katz

charged that the state violated the limits of the order by tapping many conversations protected by lawyer-client immunity, including his own conversations with his attorney and conversations between his partners and their clients - the latter even while Katz himself was in jail.

Justices Aharon Barak, Gavriel Bach and Yitzhak Zamir initially said that while Katz raised important points, they should be clarified during his trial.

However, Katz said this would be too late, because he wants to prevent the privileged conversations from being given to Nimrodi - and the judge in Nimrodi's trial has said Nimrodi should get them unless they are declared illegal.

The state insisted that the wiretaps were legal, and that in any case it does not intend to use them in court.

# At the Israel Festival

**Saturday 25/5**  
 Jerusalem Theater (JT) Sherover Hybrid. Semola Theater. 9 p.m.: Henry Crown jazz. Paul Motian Trio. 9:30 p.m.

The plaza - Exhibition of hall-room dancing. 10:30 p.m. FREE

JT foyer - Jazz club. Jerusalem Jazz Band. 11 p.m. FREE

Givat Ram - Wise Aud. classical. Lincoln Center Chamber Ensemble. 9:15 p.m.

Targ Music Cr. - Pianorama. 11 a.m.

Kfar Saha - Municipal. International Student Chamber Orchestra. 9 p.m.

# Court refuses to lower sentence of abused son who killed dad

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court refused yesterday to reduce the sentence of a man who killed his father after years of abuse, saying a sentence of 10 years was merciful enough.

Shahar Hadad, 23, was one of five children whose father, Zacharia, had abused them physically and emotionally for the past 20 years. Zacharia also abused his wife, who filed several complaints with the police.

In response to most of these complaints, the police did nothing but talk to Zacharia; the one time an indictment was filed, the court let him off with a suspended sentence. His wife also asked for a divorce, but Zacharia refused.

Shahar, according to his family's testimony, became his financial and emotional mainstay. It was he who bought shoes and clothes for his two younger brothers, and gave them the emotional support they needed.

He even read psychology texts for advice on how to help his brothers overcome the trauma of abuse.

The murder occurred when Zacharia raised a scene during Shahar's sister's wedding. Shahar told him to be quiet, and the two got into a fight which continued

after they returned to their Dimona home.

At one point, Zacharia left the room. Shahar then grabbed the gun belonging to his brother, who was on leave from the army, and shot Zacharia.

He immediately turned himself into the police and was remanded, at which point he suffered a severe nervous breakdown and spent several months in a psychiatric hospital.

The psychiatrists at the hospital said the breakdown appeared to have been caused by his deep remorse.

When he recovered, he stood trial. As a result of a plea bargain, he was charged with manslaughter rather than murder, and sentenced to 10 years, but the sentence caused a relapse, which resulted in him spending another several months in the prison's psychiatric ward. He then appealed his sentence.

Justices Ya'akov Kedmi, Yitzhak Zamir and Eliezer Goldberg all said that neither the abuse, Shahar's basically decent character nor the inaction of the police and courts merited a reduction of the sentence, because of the need to uphold the sanctity of human life and to discourage other abused children from taking the law into their own hands.

Ten years was already merciful, they said, since he could have gotten life for murder or 20 years for manslaughter.

Goldberg said he would have



Shahar Hadad (Graphic: Elyse) reduced the sentence to seven years because of Shahar's mental illness, but Kedmi and Zamir overruled him.

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# YOU DECIDE WHERE PERES WILL GO

In another week, we begin a 4 year term, when everything will be decided. As the election campaign draws to a close, I turn to you and with your permission, to your conscience:

Please don't waste your second ballot paper on a coalition which will return us to the bad old days. Don't allow Peres to go first to the religious parties. It depends only on the size of Meretz and the size of Meretz depends on you.

Meretz is going from strength to strength, our voters are coming back home. But eight or nine seats is not enough. With eight or nine seats we will not be able to stand firm against all the others.

Only a strong Meretz will be the first and senior partner of the next government.

Vote Peres - because there is no other candidate.  
 Vote Meretz - because there is no other Meretz.

## GIVE VTI STRENGTH!

Yossi Sarid, Minister of the Environment, Chairman.